

Senate File 424 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 424

BY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

(SUCCESSOR TO SF 241)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to lighted lamps on bicycles and bicycle
2 riders, and including effective date provisions.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 321.385A, Code 2015, is amended to read
2 as follows:

3 **321.385A Citation for unlighted headlamp, rear lamp, bicycle**
4 **or rider lamp, or rear registration plate light.**

5 1. a. A citation issued for failure to have headlamps
6 as required under section 321.385 shall first provide for a
7 seventy-two hour period within which the person charged with
8 the violation shall replace or repair the headlamp.

9 b. A citation issued for failure to have rear lamps as
10 required under section 321.387 or a rear registration plate
11 light as required under section 321.388 shall first provide for
12 a seventy-two hour period within which the person charged with
13 the violation shall replace or repair the lamps or light.

14 c. A citation issued for failure to have a front lamp or
15 rear lamp on a bicycle or on a bicycle rider as required under
16 section 321.397 shall first provide for a seventy-two hour
17 period within which the person charged with the violation shall
18 replace or repair the lamp or lamps.

19 2. If the person complies with the directive to replace
20 or repair the headlamp, rear lamps, bicycle or rider lamp,
21 or rear registration plate light within the allotted time
22 period, the citation shall be expunged. If the person fails to
23 comply within the allotted time period, the citation shall be
24 processed in the same manner as other citations.

25 3. A citation issued under this section shall include a
26 written notice of replacement or repair which shall indicate
27 the date of replacement or repair and the manner in which the
28 replacement or repair occurred and which shall be returned to
29 the issuing authority within the seventy-two hour time period.

30 Sec. 2. Section 321.397, Code 2015, is amended to read as
31 follows:

32 **321.397 Lamps on bicycles and bicycle riders.**

33 ~~Every~~ At the times specified in section 321.384, a bicycle or
34 its rider shall be equipped with a lamp on the front exhibiting
35 a white light, ~~at the times specified in section 321.384,~~

1 visible from a distance of at least three hundred feet to
2 the front and with a lamp on the rear exhibiting a red light
3 visible from a distance of three hundred feet to the rear,
4 ~~except that a red reflector may be used in lieu of a rear light.~~
5 A peace officer riding a police bicycle is not required to use
6 either front or rear lamps if duty so requires.

7 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect January 1,
8 2016.

9 EXPLANATION

10 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
11 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

12 Current law provides that a bicycle shall have a front
13 lighted lamp and either a rear lighted lamp or a rear reflector
14 at any time from sunset to sunrise, and at such other times
15 when conditions such as fog, snow, sleet, or rain provide
16 insufficient lighting to render clearly discernible persons and
17 vehicles on the highway at a distance of 500 feet ahead.

18 This bill provides that a bicycle or its rider shall have
19 a front and rear lighted lamp during the stated periods of
20 time, and may not have a rear reflector in lieu of the rear
21 lighted lamp. The scheduled fine for violating this provision
22 is \$25. However, the bill provides that a citation issued for
23 failure to have a front lamp or rear lamp on a bicycle or on a
24 bicycle rider shall first provide for a 72-hour period within
25 which the person charged with the violation shall replace or
26 repair the lamp. If the person complies with the directive to
27 replace or repair the bicycle or rider lamp, the citation shall
28 be expunged.

29 The bill takes effect January 1, 2016.